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BLOCK2 TO SHOWCASE LOCAL VIDEO ARTISTS

Block2, the latest venture sponsored by the City of Raleigh Arts Commission to further connect artists and community, will air films created by local video artists on a window display at the City's Urban Design Center, 133 Fayetteville St. All the films will be shown from dusk to 2 a.m. on selected dates.

Sponsor support of Block2 is being provided by American Image Graphics Corporation, Empire Properties, and the City of Raleigh Planning Department.

Neill Prewitt, a multidisciplinary local artist and founder of "Yuxtapongo" (a video art and music show on Raleigh Television Network, the City of Raleigh's television network), will be the 2010 curator for Block2. Describing his vision for Block2, Mr. Prewitt said, "In curating this new street video series, I hope to enliven our cultural conversation with artists whose work speaks to what Raleigh has been, is, and can be." Additional information on Mr. Prewitt can be found at <http://www.neillprewitt.com>.

Building upon the City Arts Commission's exhibition program of the Miriam Preston Block Art Gallery, Block2 videos will air for the duration of the exhibition with which they are paired. Videos are selected to thematically complement and expand upon the ideas already highlighted in the Block Art Gallery exhibits at the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett St.

For the "home/journeys" exhibition, Block2 will feature "Resident Tourist" by freelance video filmmaker Tim Kiernan. Mr. Kiernan's work will be on display April 8-May 24 from dusk to 2 a.m. at the Urban Design Center. The video will also be screened at the Block Art Gallery for "home/journeys" opening-night reception on April 8 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Having worked all over the world, Mr. Kiernan states that he still finds that "his greatest inspiration continues to be his hometown of Raleigh." With "Resident Tourist," he visually compares his travels in China to Raleigh, questioning the direction and purpose of Raleigh's growth. The video uses a triptych format that progresses and interchanges from local streets in Raleigh to the streets of Ghuangzhou and Shenyang in China. Additional information on Mr. Kiernan and his present and past projects can be found at his website at <http://www.521studies.blogspot.com>.

On April 8, the public is encouraged to visit the "home/journeys" reception at the Block Gallery and then take a short stroll down to Block2 at the Urban Design Center to view "Resident Tourist" starting at dusk.

After "Resident Tourist," Block2 will showcase Irene Moon's work as part of the "earth/sky" exhibition June 3-July 26. A video artist for more than 10 years, Ms. Moon blends science and art in her work, which ranges from musical PowerPoint lectures about insects to live radio broadcasts with entomological topics to installations and videos.

Miles Holst and Lincoln Hancock will be featured at Block2 for the duration of the exhibition "over/under" Aug. 5-Sept. 20. Mr. Holst challenges and explores normative thought patterns and concepts, stating that he "often focuses on themes of synthetic/organic dichotomies, artificial environments and human communication." Mr. Hancock explores aesthetic perception with his fusions of abstract paintings, photography, and video. Mr. Hancock is an artist, designer and musician.

Closing the Block2 2010 exhibitions is "Random Acts of Kindness," the work of Skip Elsheimer and A/V Geeks. This video will be part of the exhibition "rew/ffwd" (*rewind/fast forward*) Sept. 30-Nov. 22. Archiving more than 24,000 educational and industrial films, A/V Geeks Educational Film Archive was founded by Mr. Elsheimer. American Museum of the Moving Image, Coolidge Corner Cinema, Anthology Film Archives, Aurora Picture Show and Chicago Filmmakers have all showcased selected films from A/V Geeks.

Connecting local artists to community through ongoing exhibitions and public outreach, the Miriam Preston Block Art Gallery is located on the first and second floors of the Upchurch Government Complex. The gallery is managed by the City of Raleigh Arts Commission, and was dedicated in 2006 to honor Miriam Preston Block, a former Raleigh City Council member and community leader. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., except on city holidays.

Established in 1977 as the official advisory body and advocate for the arts to the Raleigh City Council, the City Raleigh Arts Commission holds the distinction of being the first municipal arts commission created in North Carolina. Serving as the leading force to champion the arts with Raleigh citizens and their representatives, the Arts Commission's myriad activities foster, support, and promote the arts in the Capital City.

For more information, contact the City of Raleigh Arts Commission at 996-3610 or email Hannah Costner, gallery coordinator, at hannah.costner@ci.raleigh.nc.us.

{**NOTE:** Attached is a still photo set from “Resident Tourist” by Tim Kiernan.}